

ATLAS

MYSTIC

MYSTIC...THE MOST *EERIE* STORIES EVER TOLD!

MAY

NO.
30

10¢

ON SALE
MONTHLY

AUTHORIZED
ACMP

COMPARIS
to the
COMICS
CODE

WHAT HAPPENS
"BEYOND
DEATH?"



GET IN THE MOOD, KIDDIES, AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON OUR NEXT MYSTERY
THE MOB IS MIGHTY EXCITED... AND IT LOOKS LIKE WILSON IS IN
TROUBLE! SOMEBODY'S DUE FOR A **SHOCK**... AND ALL BECAUSE
OF...

WILSON'S WOMAN



THE MOB PRESSED CLOSER, AS IT SWELLED WITH PEOPLE COMING FROM ALL OVER THE TOWN. FACES WERE TWISTED WITH FURY, AS THEY SAW HIM STANDING THERE AT THE WINDOW!

TENSION MOUNTED, LIKE A COILED SPRING STRETCHED TO ITS LIMIT AND READY TO SNAP! THEN SOMEONE PICKED UP A BRICK...



WHERE DID IT BEGIN? HOW DID IT START? LET US GO BACK THREE YEARS TO THE DAY WHEN PAUL WILSON FIRST CAME TO THIS SMALL TOWN TO LIVE AND WORK...



THAT'S HIM...THAT'S WILSON! WHAT DOES HE WANT TO COME TO A SMALL TOWN LIKE OURS FOR?

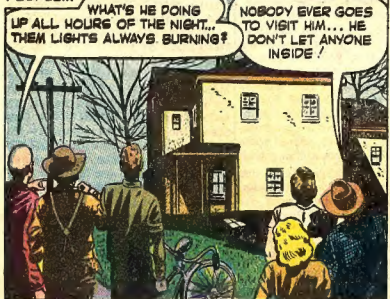
REAL ESTATE AGENT WHO SOLD HIM THE KIMBERLY PLACE, SAY'S HE'S A SCIENTIST OF SOME KIND!

I THINK IT'S FUNNY FOR HIM TO BE COMIN' WAY OUT HERE, AND BUYIN' THAT OLD HOUSE!

YEAH...I NEVER DID TRUST THEM SCIENTIST FELLERS!



WILSON SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO COME TO A SMALL TOWN TO LIVE AND WORK...BECAUSE NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THE CURIOSITY AND GOSSIP OF SMALL-TOWN PEOPLE...



WHAT'S HE DOING UP ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT...THEM LIGHTS ALWAYS BURNING?

NOBODY EVER GOES TO VISIT HIM... HE DON'T LET ANYONE INSIDE!

I CAN SEE HIM NOW... HE'S GOT A BUNCH OF QUEER-LOOKING GLASS PIPES AND TUBES... AND SOME BLUE STUFF BUBBLIN'!

COME DOWN FROM THERE, JES...YOU GOT NO RIGHT POKIN' YOUR NOSE IN THERE!

IF THAT SCIENTIST IS MESSIN' AROUND WITH SOME STUFF THAT COULD BLOW UP OUR TOWN... THEN WE GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW!



THAT WAS HOW THINGS WENT FOR ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS! GOSSIPING! SNOOPING! SUSPECTING! AND THEN ONE DAY THE PEOPLE GOT THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!



LOOK!

HOLY SMOKE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WHEW! WHO WOULD'VE BELIEVED IT?

I NEVER KNEW HE HAD A WIFE!

HE MUST'VE BROUGHT HER BACK FROM THE CITY WITH HIM THE OTHER NIGHT...BUT WITH A FACE LIKE HIS...



COME, MY DEAR...I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND THE TOWN! DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM...THEY'LL PROBABLY STARE AT YOU FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!



YES, PAUL!

PEOPLE HATED THE STRANGE MAN WHO HAD COME INTO THEIR MIDST, BUT THEY WERE ASTONISHED BY THE BEAUTY OF HIS WIFE...

WHAT DOES A PRETTY GIRL LIKE *HER* WANT WITH SUCH AN UGLY GUY? I DUNNO! LOOKS MIGHTY QUEER TO ME!



SHE'S SURE A BEAUTY! BUT DID YOU NOTICE HER EYES? SHE STARES STRAIGHT AHEAD ALL THE TIME!



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS! SHHHH! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!

IT BECAME A FAMILIAR SIGHT TO THE TOWNS-FOLK TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN COME IN TO DO HER DAILY SHOPPING...BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS PUZZLED AT HER STRANGE, QUIET MANNER...

IT'S FRIGHTENING TO LOOK INTO THEM EYES... ALMOST AS IF SHE DIDN'T REALLY SEE WHAT SHE WAS LOOKIN' AT!



HELLO, MISSUS WILSON... CAN I HELP YOU CARRY YOUR PACKAGES? THEY LOOK HEAVY...



HEH! HEH! WATCH HIM GET HIS FACE SLAPPED!

HEY, DIDJA SEE THAT? SHE DIDN'T EVEN ANSWER HIM!



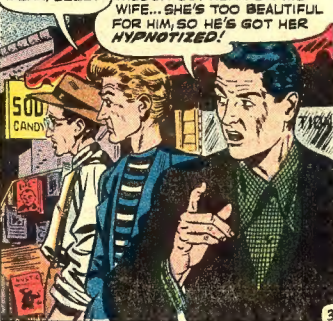
YEAH, SHE WENT BY LIKE HE DIDN'T EVEN EXIST!

BOY, SHE REALLY GAVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER! SHE NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT YOU!



DID YOU SEE HER EYES? THEY LOOKED LIKE ICE...LIKE SHE COULDN'T EVEN SEE THROUGH THEM!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BUZZ?



NOW I KNOW HOW THAT UGLY WILSON GOT HER FOR HIS WIFE... SHE'S TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR HIM, SO HE'S GOT HER HYPNOTIZED!

THAT DAY THE TELEPHONE WIRES OF THE TOWN RAN HOT, AS NEIGHBOR CALLED NEIGHBOR TO PASS ON THE STORIES THAT THEY HAD HEARD...

YES, MILLIE, THAT'S RIGHT...HE'S GOT HER HYPNOTIZED AND HE KEEPS HER THERE BY FORCE!



SURE, JAKE...I HEAR HE KIDNAPED HER FROM HER HOME IN NEW YORK, AND HE HAS HER UNDER HIS SPELL!



HE KEEPS HER CHAINED UP, AND BEATS HER! I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!



BUT THE MATCH THAT SET OFF THE EXPLOSION DIDN'T IGNITE UNTIL LATER THAT NIGHT, WHEN HUBERT...THE TOWN DRUNK AND BUM...CAME DASHING INTO THE GENERAL STORE...

(GASP!) I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! HE DID IT!



WHAT DIDJA SEE? WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

HERE, TAKE THIS...AND TELL US WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

I WAS PASSIN' WILSON'S PLACE ON MY WAY HOME, AN I STOPPED TO LOOK IN HIS WINDOW...Y'KNOW, AFTER HEARIN' ALL THEM STORIES...



DOES HE REALLY HAVE HER HYPNOTIZED AND CHAINED UP?

HE KILLED HER! WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW IT... HE USED A KNIFE! HE WUZ JUST AS CALM AS IF HE WUZ WATCHIN' A TELEVISION SHOW!



THAT POOR KID! SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!

THAT DOES IT! C'MON, FELLAS... LET'S GO GET HIM!

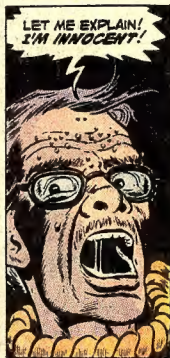
STRING HIM UP! WE'LL SHOW HIM WHAT WE DO TO MURDERERS!



THAT WAS HOW IT HAPPENED... AND PAUL WILSON, WITHOUT ANY IDEA OF RUMORS THAT HAD FORMED AROUND HIM, TRIED TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS WRONG...



THEY DRAGGED HIM TO THE BIG ELM TREE ON HIS OWN LAWN, AND TIED HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK...



WILSON FELT THE HANDS REACHING FOR HIM, CLAWING AT HIS CLOTHING! HE TRIED TO STRUGGLE, BUT IT WAS NO USE FIGHTING THE INFURIATED MOB!



THE ROUGH ROPE SCRATCHED HIS SKIN AND KNOCKED OFF HIS GLASSES AS THEY SLID IT OVER HIS HEAD...



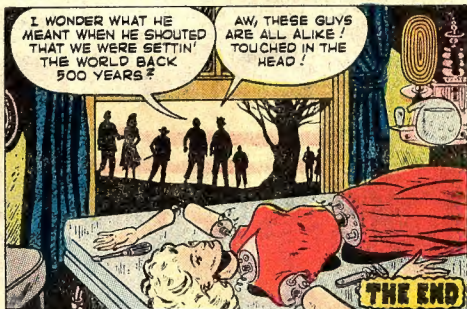
BUT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN, AND THEY SET THE ROPE AROUND HIS NECK AND JERKED IT TIGHT AGAINST HIS SLENDER THROAT...



THEY GAVE HIM NO CHANCE TO SPEAK! THEY WERE TOO EAGER! FIVE MEN AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROPE PULLED WITH ALL THEIR STRENGTH... ALL THEIR HATRED AND FURY... AND THE BODY OF PAUL WILSON WAS SNAPPED UP INTO THE AIR!



THE HANGING WAS DONE... AND WITH IT SEEMED TO COME AN END TO THE TENSIONS, HATES AND FEARS THAT HAD DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS! THE MAN OF SCIENCE THAT THEY FEARED WAS DEAD!



THE END

SUPERSTITION

DEEP IN MAN'S UNCONSCIOUS IS THE FEAR OF THE *UNKNOWN*, THE TERROR OF THE *INVISIBLE*, THE HORROR THAT *ANYTHING* CAN HAPPEN... *DESPITE* KNOWLEDGE, *DESPITE* FACT, *DESPITE* WARNING! NOTHING CHILLS A MAN'S BLOOD LIKE... *SUPERSTITION!*



THE FRENCH PENAL COLONY IN FRENCH GUIANA CONSISTED OF TWO AREAS...ONE WAS DEVIL'S ISLAND, A GREENISH BLOTCH OF EVIL SURROUNDED BY SHARK-FILLED WATERS...

THE OTHER WAS THE COMPOUND ON THE MAINLAND WHERE AN ESCAPING CONVICT HAD THE CHOICE BETWEEN CERTAIN DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE GUARDS OR CERTAIN DEATH IN THE MERCILESS JUNGLE...



JACQUES LE BRUN, PROFESSIONAL MURDERER, KNEW ALL THE HAZARDS! SO DID PIERRE VAQUEZ, POISONER, AND HILLAIRE FLEURY, KIDNAPPER! THEY WERE EQUALLY DETERMINED TO ESCAPE, OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!

THERE WERE TWO SETS OF GUARDS TO GET PAST...ONE INSIDE





WE MADE IT!
A BEAUTIFUL
JOB, GALJOUR!
YOU FOLLOWED
INSTRUCTIONS
TO THE
LETTER!

SUPPOSE
YOU
**REMEM-
BER**
THAT
WHEN WE
COME TO
THE PAY-
OFF!



THERE'S **NOTHING**
TO REMEMBER,
GALJOUR! WE'LL
TAKE CARE OF THE
PAY OFF NOW!

NOW? BUT
YOU HAVE
NO MONEY!

WHO SAID ANY-
THING ABOUT
MONEY?

YOU'RE A FOOL, GALJOUR! WE
CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF OUR
SIGHT! YOU MIGHT BETRAY US
TO THE COMMANDANT FOR
MORE MONEY THAN WE
PROMISED YOU TO HELP US
ESCAPE!



WHAT ARE YOU STANDING HERE
FOR? TAKE US
TO YOUR
VILLAGE!
YOUR CHIEF
EXPECTS US!



I DON'T LIKE
THEIR EXPRES-
SIONS, LE BRUN!
CAN WE **TRUST**
THEM?

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! THE BOAT
GALJOUR PREPARED FOR US IS
WAITING AT THEIR VILLAGE! THE
FASTER WE GET THERE, THE
FURTHER WE'LL BE FROM PURSUIT
IN THE MORNING!



I'LL TAKE
THIS GUN...
JUST IN
CASE!

BUT AT THE INDIAN VILLAGE...

NO TRIBESMAN LEAVES
VILLAGE TO CROSS
OCEAN! IT IS FORBIDDEN!
TRIBAL GODS SAY NO!
KALA DA MO!

BUT WE
CAN'T SAIL
THE BOAT **OUR-
SELVES!** YOU
CAN'T LET US
DOWN NOW!



BUT ALL THE WRANGLING AND ARGUMENTS
LEFT THE NATIVES UNMOVED...

THEY SAY THERE'S A
SUPERSTITION
AGAINST GOING TO
SEA! NO MAN **DARES**
TRAVEL **EAST!**
THEY CALL THEIR
SUPERSTITION
KALA DA MO!

KALA DA MO...NONSENSE!
IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE NOT
TO GO WITH US! I'LL TEACH
THEM **SUPERSTITION!**
LISTEN, HEAD MAN! YOU GO
OR YOU **DIE!**



AN HOUR LATER...

THEY SEEM GENUINELY FRIGHTENED, LE BRUN!
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO THEIR SUPERSTITION?

HOW CAN THERE BE? THERE'S NO TRUTH TO ANY SUPERSTITION! ALL A MAN NEEDS IS A GUN AND THE NERVE TO USE IT!



BUT DURING THE NIGHT, AS LE BRUN, WHO WAS ON GUARD, DOZED OFF...



IN THE MORNING, THE THREE CONVICTS FOUND THEMSELVES AT SEA...

WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! THEY COULD HAVE CUT OUR THROATS!

THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME! WHY DID THEY LET US LIVE?

BECAUSE THEY ARE FOOLS! CRINGING BEFORE THE DARK... TERRIFIED OF THE UNKNOWN!



WE'LL MAKE IT ACROSS (GASP!) THE SEA WITHOUT THEM! LOOK HOW FAST WE'RE MOVING! AND NOT A BREATH OF WIND STIRRING!

WAIT! I HEARD A ROARING SOUND LIKE A WATERFALL! A GIGANTIC WATERFALL!



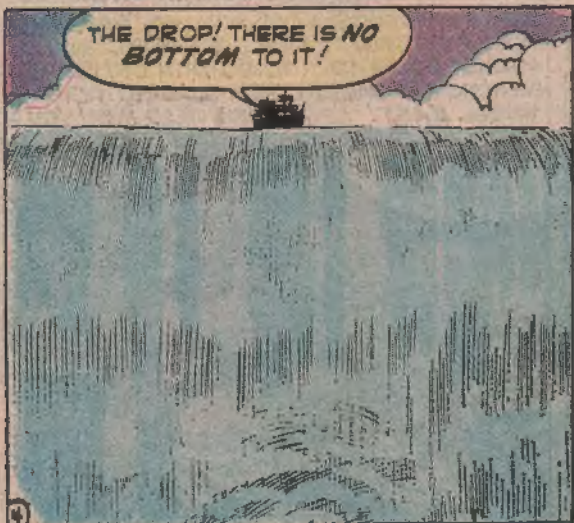
I HEAR IT TOO! LE BRUN, LOOK! THE HORIZON HAS DISAPPEARED! ... (GASP!) ... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AHEAD!

THAT WORD THEY USED... KALA DA MO! IT COMES BACK TO ME! IT MEANS THE END OF THE WORLD!

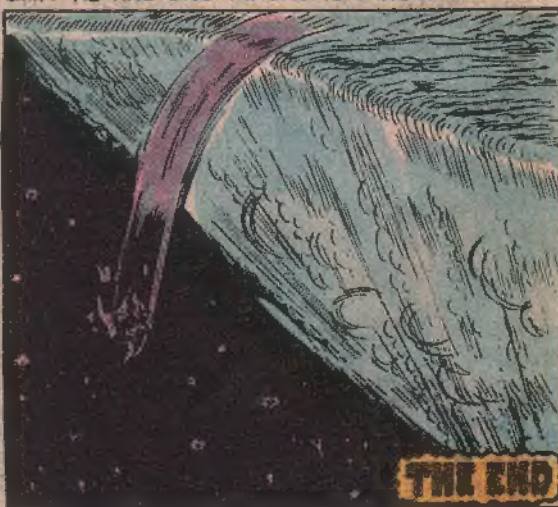


THE ANCIENT, LEGENDARY FEAR THAT COLUMBUS' SAILORS WERE AFRAID OF!

THE DROP! THERE IS NO BOTTOM TO IT!



COLUMBUS HAD PROVED THE WORLD WAS ROUND... BUT WAS IT? LE BRUN WAS TOO BUSY TO SAY! HE WAS DROPPING... DROPPING... DROPPING...



THE END

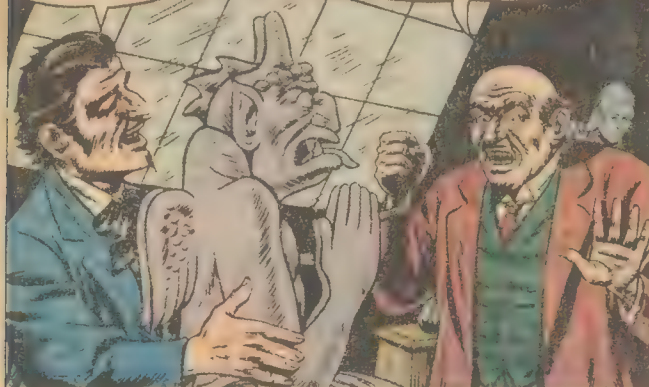
BEYOND DEATH!



IT WAS THE SAME EVERYWHERE I WENT WITH MY SCULPTURES...UNTIL I WAS FORCED TO SEEK WORK TO SUSTAIN MYSELF! I BECAME A CARVER OF STATUARY FOR TOMBSTONES FOR M'SIEU BONNARD!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, M'SIEU BONNARD?

NO! IGNATZ! **NO!** IT IS STILL UGLY! THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A DECORATION FOR A TOMBSTONE...NOT A FREAK SHOW!



WILL YOU NEVER **LEARN?** YOU MUST MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL! FOR TOMBSTONES **EVERYTHING** MUST BE BEAUTIFUL!

I...I WILL TRY TO REMEMBER, M'SIEU BONNARD! I WILL TRY AGAIN!



IT WAS A POOR POSITION...BUT IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET LOVELY, ANGELIC FLORA! WE KNEW THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET THAT WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER...

...AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER!

YES...A LIVING MONUMENT!



BUT WE ALSO KNEW HER FATHER DID NOT CONSIDER ME A WORTHY SUITOR!

FLORA! HEAR ME! GO BACK TO THE HOUSE...TO YOUR WORK!

Y...YES, PAPA!



BUT AS THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CARVE MARBLE, SO THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR LOVERS TO MEET!

FLORA! YOU **DID** COME! BUT YOUR FATHER...

HE DOESN'T KNOW! HE THINKS I AM IN BED!



I LOVED HER AND WANTED TO MARRY HER...BUT SHE WOULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT HER FATHER'S CONSENT...WHICH WE KNEW WOULD NEVER BE GRANTED! SO WE CONTINUED OUR SECRET RENDEZVOUS! BUT ONE NIGHT WE WERE DISCOVERED.

YOU BLASTED SNEAK! I'M GOING TO WHIP THE SKIN OFF YOUR BONES FOR THIS!

NO, PAPA! PLEASE DO NOT HARM HIM! I LOVE HIM! **I LOVE HIM!**



TO THIS DAY I AM MARKED WITH THE SCARS OF THAT LASHING! AND TO THIS DAY MY INSIDES SCREAM WITH THE PAIN I ENDURED AT THAT TIME... I ENDURED IT TO PROVE MY LOVE FOR FLORA!

SCREAM, YOU SCOUNDREL! WHY DON'T YOU CRY OUT? WHY DON'T YOU BEG FOR MERCY?

STOP! PAPA... PLEASE! STOP! YOU'LL KILL HIM!



BUT HE DIDN'T KILL ME...NOR DID HE DISCHARGE ME, WHICH WAS A GREAT SURPRISE TO ME...UNTIL A WEEK LATER...

THIS STATUE IS TO BE DELIVERED TOMORROW MORNING, IGNATZ! YOU MUST FINISH IT EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO WORK ALL NIGHT!

OUI, M'SIEU BONNARD!

I WORKED LONG PAST THE MIDNIGHT HOUR WITH ONLY THE MUSIC OF MY MALLET INTRUDING UPON THE SILENT NIGHT...

BUT ONCE, AS I PAUSED IN MY TAPPING, I HEARD THE SHUFFLE OF CAUTIOUS FOOTSTEPS BEHIND ME...

I TURNED QUICKLY FROM MY WORK...AND MY MOVEMENT FOILED THE STABBING THRUST OF A SYRINGE NEEDLE MEANT FOR MY FLESH!

MON DIEU! WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

TRYING TO KEEP YOU FROM MARRYING MY DAUGHTER, YOU SCUM OF THE EARTH! AND I **WILL!** JUST ONE STING OF THIS NEEDLE AND YOU'LL **NEVER** BOTHER HER AGAIN!

I LOVE YOUR DAUGHTER, M'SIEU BONNARD! NOTHING CAN STOP THAT!

HE JABBED AND LASHED AT ME WITH THE NEEDLE, BUT I PARRIED AND AVOIDED EACH LUNGE UNTIL I WAS ABLE TO SEIZE HIM!

LET GO, M'SIEU BONNARD, OR I WILL BREAK YOUR ARM!

OWWWW! YOU BLASTED DEVIL!

I GOT POSSESSION OF THE SYRINGE, BUT THAT WAS NOT THE END OF THE BATTLE! EVERYTHING IN THE WORKSHOP BECAME A WEAPON!

ONLY **ONE** OF US WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE TONIGHT!

THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE, M'SIEU BONNARD!

THE VIGOR AND AGILITY OF YOUTH WERE ON MY SIDE! AS HE HACKED AT ME WITH THE AX, I SENT A FIST CRASHING INTO HIS FACE!



HE FELL TO THE FLOOR LIKE A SLAB OF GRANITE...AND I FLED OUT INTO THE NIGHT!

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, YOU BLASTED SCUM!
I'LL GET YOU!



IN MY ROOM THAT NIGHT, I EXAMINED THE SYRINGE...AND SLOWLY DESPERATION POISONED MY MIND WITH VIOLENT THOUGHTS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS SYRINGE CONTAINS...BUT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO EMPTY IT INTO ME...AND HE THREATENED...TO GET ME!



BUT I'LL PLAY HIS GAME NOW! I'LL GET HIM FIRST... WITH THIS SYRINGE!



IT WAS A WEEK BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO SUMMON ENOUGH COURAGE TO TRY MY PLAN!

THAT'S HIS ROOM UP THERE!



IT WAS A MOONLESS NIGHT, AND I WAE LIKE A PIECE OF THE DARKNESS AS I CLIMBED...



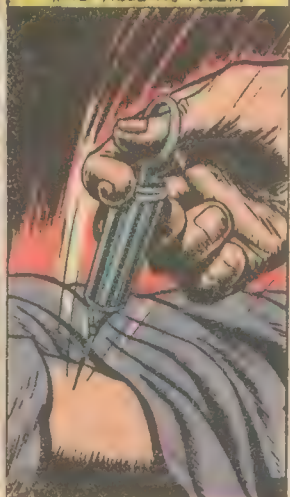
I REACHED THE WINDOW! IT OPENED EASILY! I CREPT INSIDE...

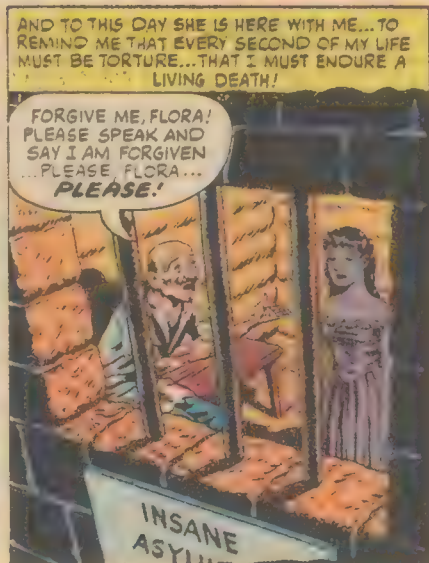
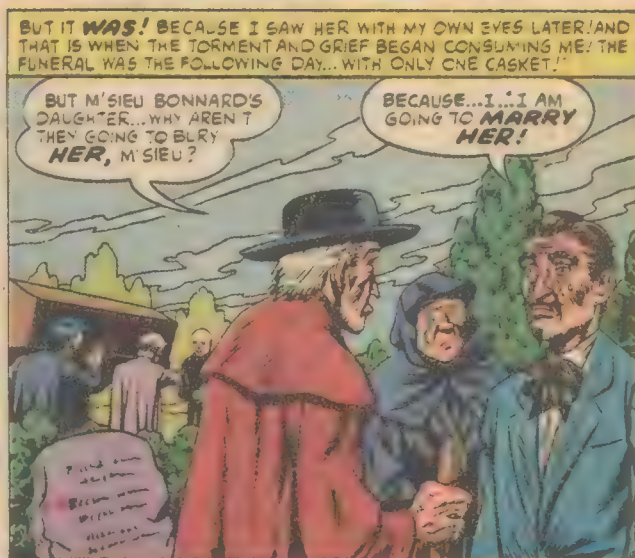


WITH THE STEALTH OF A SERPENT I CROSSED THE CARPETED ROOM...



AND LIKE A SERPENT, I SUNK THE SYRINGE'S FANG INTO YIELDING FLESH!

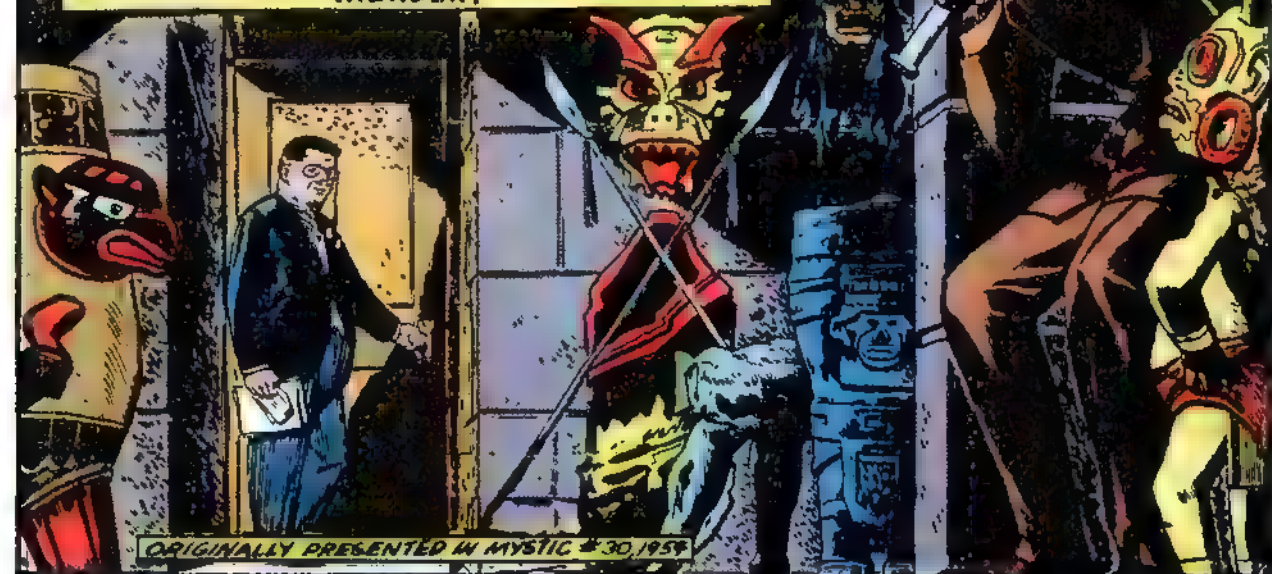




Stan Lee PRESENTS: **BEWARE!** THE MONSTERS ARE COMING!

DOUBLE FEATURE

MURDER... THAT'S WHAT THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES IS, WARREN KOSTER! EVERY TIME YOU SEE YOUR SUPERIOR, THAT GLINT BLAZES IN YOUR EYES! YOU HATE HIM BECAUSE YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE HIS POSITION... YOU'D LIKE TO BE THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM! AND IF IT WASN'T FOR *HIM*, YOU *WOULD* BE! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HIDING IN THE MUSEUM AFTER CLOSING TIME... WITH AN ANCIENT AMAZONIAN BIPENNIS IN YOUR HAND! HERE COMES YOUR BOSS... AND THERE'S THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES AGAIN... **MURDER, WARREN KOSTER... MURDER!**



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN MYSTIC #30, 1954

HIS FOOTSTEPS EXPLODE AGAINST THE WOODEN FLOOR, AND YOU TIGHTEN YOUR GRIP ON THE AXE...



HE STOPS SUDDENLY! YOU CURSE UNDER YOUR BREATH! DOES HE KNOW YOU ARE THERE, WARREN?



NO... HERE HE COMES AGAIN AND YOUR HANDS ARE SLIMY WITH SWEAT...



HE'S SO CLOSE NOW, YOU CAN SMELL THE SICKENING COLOGNE HE WEARS! NOW, WARREN! BRING THE AXE DOWN NOW!



HE PASSES BY...AND YOU'RE STILL STANDING THERE WITH THE AXE LIFTED OVER YOUR HEAD! WHY, WARREN? WHAT'S THE MATTER...LOSE YOUR NERVE?

NO! I'D BE A FOOL TO DO IT THIS WAY!

SURE YOU WOULD, WARREN! EVERYBODY KNOWS OF YOUR HATE FOR MR. BLACKTON... AND YOU'D BE THE FIRST ONE THEY'D BLAME IF HE WAS MURDERED! YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE AN ALIBI, WARREN...AN ALIBI TO SAVE YOUR HIDE FROM FRYING...

YES, I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OUT! KILLING THAT WEASEL IS ONLY HALF THE PROBLEM! I WANT TO STAY OUT OF JAIL AFTER HE'S DEAD... SO I CAN ENJOY BEING THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM!

THINK, WARREN...THINK HARD! HOW CAN YOU KILL HIM AND STILL HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI?

THERE MUST BE A WAY... THERE'S GOT TO BE! YEAH! I THINK I GOT IT!

BIJOU THEATER
TODAY & TOMORROW
DOUBLE FEATURE
"MARKED FOR MURDER"
AND TRAPPED

ONE, PLEASE!

WARREN KOSTER...HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES...OR YOUR NERVE AGAIN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A MOVIE HOUSE, WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THINKING OF A WAY TO KILL BLACKTON?

THIS IS ALL A PART OF THE PLAN! AND NOW TO RELAX AND ENJOY THE MOVIE!

OH, I CATCH ON NOW, WARREN! IT'S A DOUBLE FEATURE MURDER SHOW... AND FROM THE PICTURES YOU HOPE TO GET AN IDEA, HUH?

I MUST REMEMBER THESE SCENES!

WELL, THE SHOW'S OVER, WARREN, AND FRANKLY IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME, RIGHT, WARREN?

QUITE THE CONTRARY! THE PICTURES WERE MOST ENJOYABLE! AND I CAME TO A DECISION DURING THE PERFORMANCE! TOMORROW NIGHT I SHALL KILL MR. BLACKTON...FOR SURE!

OKAY, WARREN, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO WHAT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DO! THERE'S THE BOSS...PLENTY OF WEAPONS HANDY...AND YOU'VE GOT THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES! SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



YOU CALL THIS IMPORTANT BUSINESS, WARREN? NOW I KNOW YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU WERE IN THIS THEATER LAST NIGHT...YOU SAW THESE PICTURES...REMEMBER? THEY WERE LOUSY...AND NOW YOU'RE GOING IN AGAIN...

BIJOU THEATER
TODAY & TOMORROW
DOUBLE FEATURE
"MARKED FOR MURDER"
AND **"TRAPPED"**



HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW? THE ENTRANCE IS BACK THERE! AND WHAT'S THE IDEA OF TEARING THAT TICKET IN HALF?

I'LL KEEP THE STUB WITH THE DATE AND TIME OF PURCHASE STAMPED ON IT... IT'S MY ALIBI! I SAW THE PICTURES YESTERDAY SO I CAN ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THEM! AND NOW...IT'S TIME FOR MURDER!



CLEVER, WARREN...VERY CLEVER! AND YOU'VE GOT NERVE, TOO...WALKING UP TO BLACKTON'S DOOR LIKE THIS ...AND KNOCKING LIKE A VISITING FRIEND...

OH, WARREN... THANK YOU, MR. BLACKTON!
THIS IS A SURPRISE! COME IN, PLEASE!



WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ON A NASTY NIGHT LIKE THIS?



BUT IT'LL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES!



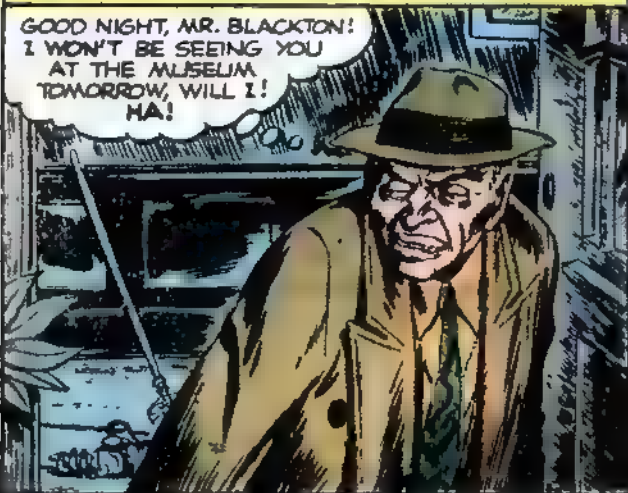
ARG-G-G!

PRETTY NEAT, WARREN...HE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT! AND THE ONLY SOUND WAS THE LANCE PIERCING HIS FLESH AND HIS BODY FALLING TO THE FLOOR...

GOOD NIGHT, MR. BLACKTON! I WON'T BE SEEING YOU AT THE MUSEUM TOMORROW, WILL I! HA!

HAPPY, AREN'T YOU, WARREN? THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE WANTED TO DO FOR YEARS...

AND WHEN YOU GET HOME, YOU GO RIGHT TO BED... BECAUSE YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE AWAKENED EARLY TOMORROW MORNING...



AND YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY, KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR...

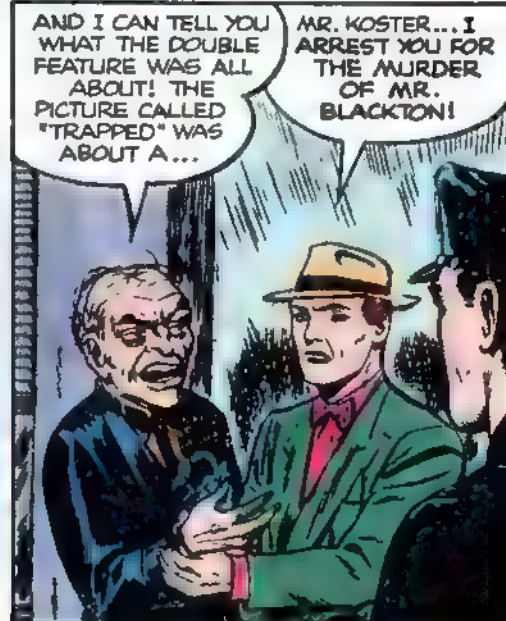


YES, MR. KOSTER! THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM, MR. BLACKTON, HAS BEEN MURDERED, AND WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!



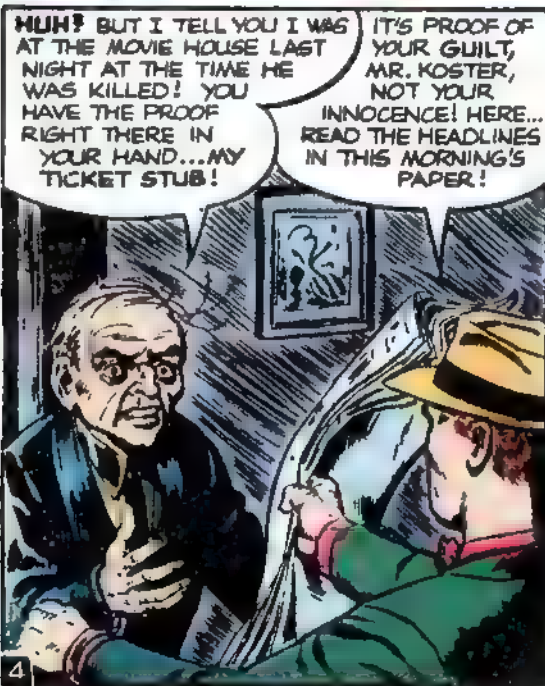
WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT BETWEEN EIGHT AND ELEVEN O'CLOCK?

IN THE MOVIES... AND HERE'S THE STUB WITH THE DATE AND THE TIME STAMPED ON IT!



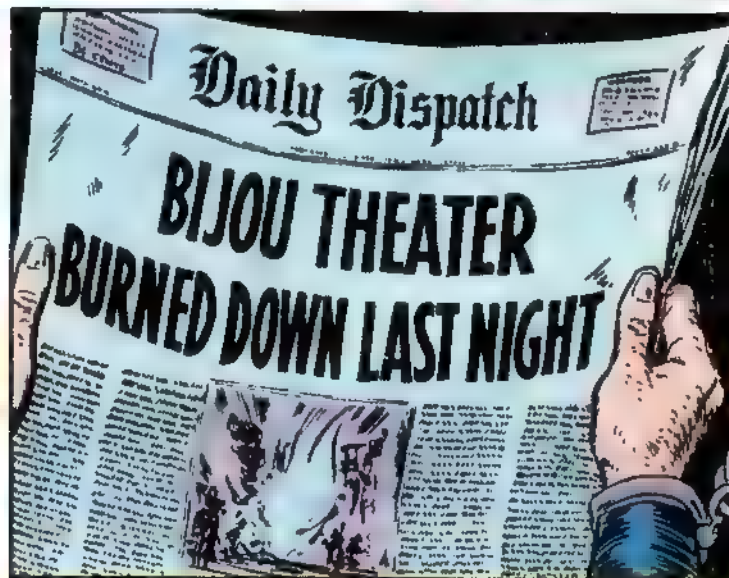
AND I CAN TELL YOU WHAT THE DOUBLE FEATURE WAS ALL ABOUT! THE PICTURE CALLED "TRAPPED" WAS ABOUT A...

MR. KOSTER... I ARREST YOU FOR THE MURDER OF MR. BLACKTON!



HUH? BUT I TELL YOU I WAS AT THE MOVIE HOUSE LAST NIGHT AT THE TIME HE WAS KILLED! YOU HAVE THE PROOF RIGHT THERE IN YOUR HAND...MY TICKET STUB!

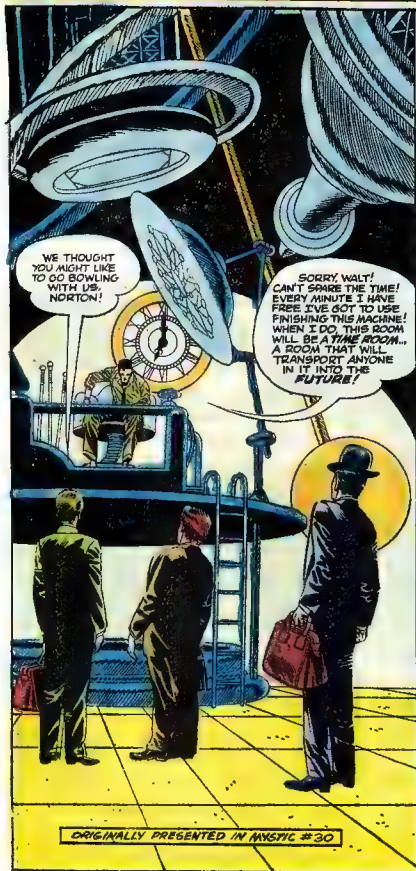
IT'S PROOF OF YOUR GUILT, MR. KOSTER, NOT YOUR INNOCENCE! HERE... READ THE HEADLINES IN THIS MORNING'S PAPER!



YES, WARREN...IT DID! JUST A FEW MINUTES AFTER YOU BOUGHT YOUR SECOND TICKET FOR THAT DOUBLE FEATURE!

THE END

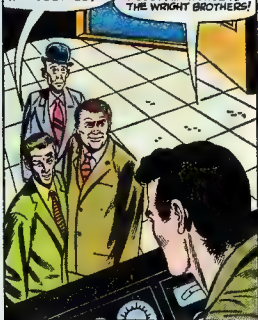
THE MONSTER MEN



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN MYSTIC #30

NORTON, ALL DAY DOWN AT THE PLANT YOU'RE BUSY WORKING ON NEW INVENTIONS! WHEN YOU COME HOME YOU SHOULD KNOCK OFF! YOU KNOW TIME TRAVEL IS **IMPOSSIBLE**!

I'LL BET SOMEONE SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT AIR TRAVEL TO THE WRIGHT BROTHERS!

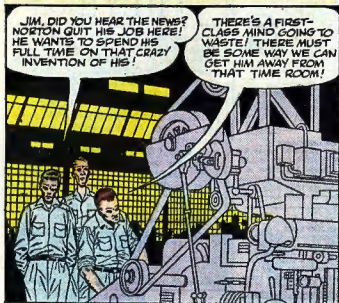


OKAY NORTON, WE'LL BE AT THE ALLEY! WHEN YOU GET BACK FROM THE TWENTY-FIFTH CENTURY, LOOK US UP!

KEEP LAUGHING, WALT, BUT I KNOW I'M RIGHT! TIME IS A DIMENSION, TOO! WE CAN TRAVEL UP AND DOWN, BACKWARD AND FORWARD... AND THERE'LL BE NO REASON WHY WE COULDN'T MOVE ABOUT IN TIME, TOO!



DESPITE HIS FRIENDS' ATTEMPTS TO DIVERT HIM, NORTON WORKS UNCEASINGLY ON HIS FANTASTIC TIME ROOM...



NIGHT AND DAY, NORTON NESBITT WORKS WITH OBSSIVE FEVER ON HIS TIME ROOM! SLOWLY HE ASSEMBLES MILES OF COMPLICATED WIRING IN HIS FANTASTIC BID TO BREAK THROUGH THE TIME DIMENSION...

AFTER ENDLESS WEEKS OF WORK, A GLEAM OF TRIUMPH CROSSES THE INVENTOR'S WORN FACE AS HE THROWS THE MAIN SWITCH...

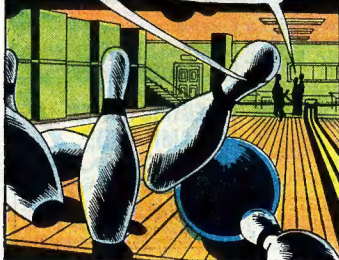


TURBO-ROTARIES ARE SPINNING! VITRO-TUBES PERKING UP! EVERYTHING ON THE PANEL CHECKS! IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT, THIS MACHINE IS READY TO MOVE THIS ROOM 500 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!



SORRY...TOMORROW I HAVE A DATE BACK IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!

PAUL AND I ARE OUT, TOO! WE'RE PUTTING IN SOME OVER-TIME AT THE PLANT! BUT BON VOYAGE...AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!



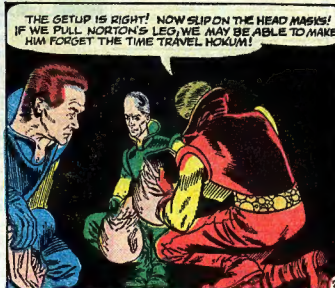
THERE IS, JIM! YOU, PAUL AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A BIT OF MASQUERADING...BUT WE CAN'T TRY MY LITTLE ACT UNTIL HE COMPLETES HIS WORK!



QUICKLY, WITH REPRESSED EXCITEMENT, NORTON NESBITT FINDS HIS FRIENDS...



THE NEXT NIGHT, WHILE NORTON NESBITT GOES OUT FOR DINNER, THREE SHADY FIGURES IN STRANGE GARBS HIDE IN A DARK CORNER OF THE TIME ROOM...

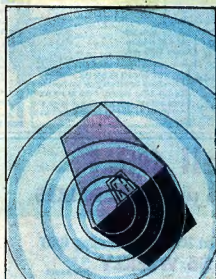


MINUTES LATER, THE INVENTOR ENTERS THE HAZE DARKENED ROOM AND CAREFULLY CLOSES THE DOOR...



SUDDENLY, FROM THE WEIRD MACHINE, AN UNEARTHLY HUMMING IS HEARD, RISING INTO A WILD PITCH, AS THE ROOM BEGINS TO SHAKE AND VIBRATE AT FANTASTIC SPEED...

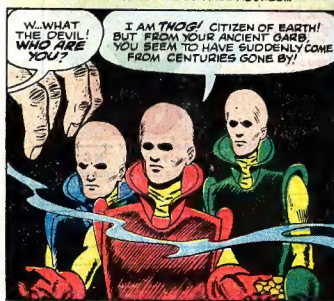
THEN THE ROOM BEGINS TO TURN! SLOWLY AT FIRST, BUT GATHERING MOMENTUM WITH EACH REVOLUTION, UNTIL IT SPINS WITH DIZZIFYING RAPIDITY IN A MAD VORTEX...



GRADUALLY, THE ROOM RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL INERTIA! NOTHING MOVES, AND THEN, WITH A DETERMINED THRUST, NORTON NESSBITT THROWS THE FINAL SWITCH, AS SPARKS CRACKLE...



AT WALT'S SIGNAL, THE THREE MASQUERADERS RISE FROM THE SHADOWS, AS NORTON NESSBITT SWINGS ABOUT TO FACE THE STRANGE FIGURES...



W...WHAT THE DEVIL! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THOS! CITIZEN OF EARTH! BUT FROM YOUR ANCIENT GARB, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SUDDENLY COME FROM CENTURIES GONE BY!



I WISH THE OTHERS WERE HERE! WELL...YEAR 2484, HERE I COME!



WE WERE STANDING OUTSIDE BY THE STELLAR ROCKET LAUNCHING PLATFORMS WHEN, OUT OF NOWHERE THIS BOX-LIKE ROOM MATERIALIZED!

THEN, I DID IT! THE ROOM TRAVELED INTO THE FUTURE!



WITH A WILD COMPULSIVE LUNGE, NORTON NESSBITT TEARS AT WALT'S RUBBERY FACE MASK AND CLAWS IT FROM HIS HEAD...

HIS ONCE TRIUMPHANT EYES NARROW, AS AGAIN HE RIPS OFF ANOTHER MASK AND SEES THE MOCKING REALITY THAT SHATTERS HIS DREAMS OF VICTORY...

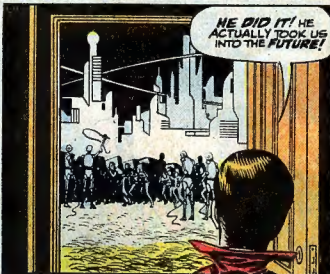
FOR A MOMENT THERE IS A GRIM SILENCE IN THE ROOM, AND THEN, A HYSTERICAL LAUGH EXPLODES, AS NORTON NESSBITT LAUGHS ON AND ON, AND A LOOK OF UTTER MADNESS CROSSES HIS DISTORTED FACE!



THE HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER DOESN'T END! HIS FRIENDS TRY IN VAIN TO CALM THE SEEMINGLY CRAZED INVENTOR, BUT TO NO AVAIL...



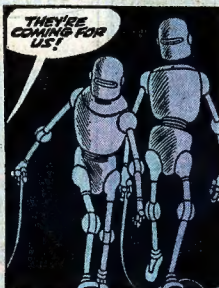
BUT AS WALT OPENS THE TIME ROOM'S DOOR, HE GAZES INCREDULOUSLY AT THE ASTONISHING WORLD OUTSIDE!



BUT AS HE GAZES OUT ON THE ALIEN WORLD, ONE LURID FACT BECOMES TERRIFYINGLY CLEAR...



THEN SUDDENLY, TWO MECHANICAL MONSTERS TURN, AWARE OF THE STRANGE CREATURE FROM TIME PAST STARING AT THEM! WITH RELENTLESS STEPS, THE MASTER MACHINES ADVANCE...



TREMBLING WITH FEAR, WALT SLAMS THE DOOR AND LOCKS IT!



DESPERATELY, WALT PLEADS WITH THE STUNNED INVENTOR TO START THE MACHINE! THEN SUDDENLY, NORTON NESBITT GRABS A WRENCH AND WITH FINALITY STRIKES AT THE CONTROLS.



THE CONTROLS ARE HOPELESSLY SMASHED! THE LAST SHATTERING TINKLE OF GLASS FADES OUT! THEN THERE IS SILENCE IN THE ROOM! BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT, AS WITH A SPLINTERING BLOW, A METALLIC HAND BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR!

